

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-31. Canceled.

32. (Currently Amended) A vertical wall structure comprising:

a foundation wall that has a length and a width;

a plurality of individual, generally uniform sized straw bales stacked a plurality of courses high on said foundation wall wherein said bales have the general shape of a regular parallelepiped having a width, a height and a length terminating in opposing ends and said bales are stacked on said foundation wall with their lengths aligned with the length of said foundation wall:

a plurality of vertically oriented bracing ladders attached to the foundation wall at spaced apart locations along the length of the foundation wall wherein each said ladder is a truss formed by a pair of spaced apart vertically oriented rails and ~~connecting~~ struts affixed ~~between~~ to and connecting said rails with said struts and rails lying in a common plane ~~and the space between said rails being greater than the width of said bales~~, said ladders being disposed at locations on said foundation wall whereby the common plane of said ladders is transverse to the length of said foundation wall and generally parallel to the ends of said bales ~~and wherein said ladder struts are located between said rails in a pattern that includes openings between said rails large enough for a said bale to pass through~~; and

~~wherein a ladder strut of each said bracing ladders is abutted by the end of at least one said bale and each said bracing ladder surrounds at least one said bale between its rails.~~

a plurality of X-shaped spars disposed at ends of said bales and having opposing pairs of legs that straddle the bale in an adjacent course above and below the end of said bale at which said spar is located;

anchor dowels affixed in the foundation wall and extending vertically upwardly from said foundation wall; and

a connecting rod attached to and extending vertically upwardly from an anchor dowel and attached to a plurality of said X-shaped spars.

33-35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) The wall structure of claim 32 wherein said bales are stacked in a running bond.

37-38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a wall having a core of straw bales comprising:

onto a foundation wall that has a length and a width affix a plurality of vertically oriented bracing ladders at spaced apart locations along the length of the foundation wall wherein each bracing ladder is a truss formed by a pair of spaced apart vertically oriented rails and ~~connecting~~ struts which are attached to and connect said rails with the struts and rails lying in a common plane, with bracing ladders being oriented such that the common plane of the ladders is transverse to the length of the foundation wall and generally parallel to the width of the foundation wall ~~and wherein the ladder struts are located between the~~

~~ladder rails in a pattern that includes openings between the rails large enough for a bale to pass through;~~

stacking onto the foundation wall and among the bracing ladders a first course of a plurality of ~~individual, generally uniform sized~~ straw bales having the general shape of a regular parallelepiped with a width, height and length terminating in opposing ends wherein the bales are placed end-to-end with their lengths parallel to the length of the foundation wall ~~and further wherein some of the straw bales of the first course are placed such that one of their ends abuts a bracing ladder strut and others of said straw bales extend between the rails of a bracing ladder to the extent that the rails are located approximately at the mid-length of that bale;~~

stacking onto said first course of bales and among the bracing ladders a second course of bales ~~generally identical in size and shape to the bales of the first course wherein some of the straw bales of the second course are placed such that one of their ends abuts a bracing ladder strut and others of said straw bales extend between the rails of a bracing ladder to the extent that the rails are located approximately at the mid length of that bale;~~

continuing to add courses of straw bales ~~of generally identical size and shape to the bales of the first course~~ onto the next previous course and among the bracing ladders as with the previous course until the desired height of the wall is reached ~~whereby for each bracing ladder each successive course of bales will alternate between having a bale that abuts a ladder strut and a bale that extends through the ladder such~~

~~that the rails of the ladder are located approximately at the mid length of that bale.~~

while stacking bales to form the next course placing an X-shaped spar having opposing pairs of legs at the end of one or more bales; and
connecting all vertically aligned spar legs together and to the foundation wall.

40. (Canceled)

41. (New) An internal structure for a building wall having a foundation wall that has a length and a width comprising:

a plurality of vertically oriented bracing ladders attached to the foundation wall at spaced apart locations along the length of the foundation wall wherein each said ladder is a truss formed by a pair of spaced apart vertically oriented rails and struts affixed to and connecting said rails wherein said struts and rails lying in a common plane, said ladders being oriented relative to said foundation wall whereby the common plane of said ladders is transverse to the length of said foundation wall and generally parallel to the width of said foundation wall;

a plurality of pairs of connecting rods attached to and extending vertically upwardly from said foundation wall wherein each said pair of connecting rods lies in a plane generally parallel to the common plane of said bracing ladders; and

a plurality of X-shaped spars disposed between and attached to a said pair of connecting rods.

42. (New) The internal structure of claim 41 further comprising:

a plurality of anchor dowels secured within and extending above said foundation wall and attached to said connecting rods whereby said connecting rods and said X-shaped spars are attached to the foundation wall.

43. (New) The internal structure of claim 41 wherein said connecting rods are anchored in the foundation wall.

44. (New) A method of constructing an internal structure for a wall onto a foundation wall having a length and a width comprising:

affixing a plurality of vertically oriented bracing ladders at spaced apart locations along the length of the foundation wall wherein each bracing ladder is a truss formed by a pair of spaced apart vertically oriented rails and struts that are attached to and connect said rails wherein the struts and rails lie in a common plane, wherein the bracing ladders are oriented such that the common plane of the ladders is transverse to the length of the foundation wall and generally parallel to the width of the foundation wall;

attaching pairs of connecting rods to and extending vertically upwardly from said foundation wall wherein each said pair of connecting rods lies in a plane generally parallel to the common plane of said bracing ladders;

attaching X-shaped spars to and between pairs of connecting rods whereby the spars lie in a plane generally parallel to the plane of said connecting rods pairs and the common plane of the bracing ladders.

45. (New) The method of claim 43 further comprising:

anchoring anchor dowels in the foundation wall such that they extend above the foundation wall; and

attaching connecting rods to the anchor dowels.

46. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the connecting rods are anchored in the foundation wall.

47. (New) An internal wall structure on a foundation wall that has a length and a width comprising:

a plurality of individual, generally uniform sized straw bales stacked a plurality of courses high on said foundation wall wherein said bales have the general shape of a regular parallelepiped having a width, a height and a length terminating in opposing ends and said bales are stacked on the foundation wall with their lengths aligned with the length of the foundation wall:

a plurality of vertically oriented bracing ladders attached to the foundation wall at spaced apart locations along the length of the foundation wall wherein each said ladder is a truss formed by a pair of spaced apart vertically oriented rails with struts affixed to and connecting said rails wherein said struts and rails lie in a common plane, said ladders being disposed at locations on said foundation wall whereby the common plane of said ladders is transverse to the length of said foundation wall and generally parallel to the ends of said bales without penetrating the interior of any said bales.